<center>REMARKS</center>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action of July 23, 2007. Claims 42-51 are now presented for examination, having been added in place of Claims , which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 42, 50 and 51 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17, 19-26, 36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,913,019 (Attenberg) in view of U.S. Patents 6,369,908 (Frey et al.) and 6,353,772 (Silverbrook). In addition, Claims 40 and 41 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being obvious from those three patents in view of JPA 07-334701 (Okuyama) and U.S. Patents 6,008,820 (Chauvin et al.) and 5,405,152 (Katanics et al.).

While cancellation of the rejected claims renders those rejections moot, Applicants submit that newly-added independent Claims 42, 50 and 51, and the claims dependent from Claim 42, are each allowable over the foregoing documents, for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 42 is directed to a sticker printing apparatus for printing a desired sticker by operating a touch panel overlaid on a display screen, which comprises storage means which has previously stored a plurality of candidate images for each of several parts that make up a sticker, where the parts are each to be overlaid on each other in a fixed order, and where at least one of the parts is to be combined with a character string and one of the parts is a background part of the sticker. Parts determination means determine, in a fixed order, one image for each of the parts, and do so by displaying a

<center>- 10 -</center>

plurality of candidate images for a part to be determined on the screen, selecting one of the displayed candidate images using the touch panel, and storing into a memory the selected candidate image as a determined part image corresponding to the part that has been selected.

Whenever a part image of a part layer is determined by the parts determination means, generating means generate image data of a sticker in an intermediate step performed by the part determination means by laying out part images that have been determined by the parts determination means, stored in the memory in accordance with the fixed order and predetermined positions assigned to each of the part layers, and display the generated image data on a predetermined area on the screen. While the parts determination means and the generating means are operating, editing means serve to select a part to be edited in accordance with whether a user designates a previous part or a next part, and edit the selected part so as to re-select one of the plurality of candidate images of the selected part, where a plurality of parts are subjected to be edited. Output means, when an output instruction is inputted by using the touch panel, output the image data of the sticker, obtained by the generating means, to printing means.

Claim 42 further recites that the parts determination means includes discrimination means, for discriminating whether or not a part of interest is combined with a character string, first storing means that, if the discrimination means discriminates that the part of interest is not combined with a character string, store a selected candidate image as the determined part image for the part of interest into the memory, and input means that, if the discrimination means discriminate that the part of interest is combined with a character string, input a character string using the touch panel. The parts determination

means also includes combining means, for combining the selected candidate image with an image of the character string inputted by said input means, and second storing means, for storing the candidate image combined by the combining means as the determined part image for the part of interest into the memory.

Among other notable features of an apparatus according to Claim 42, therefore, are (i) that all of the candidate images for each of the parts of the sticker, are previously stored in the storage means, and, when a part image from a plurality of candidate images for the part of interest is determined, (ii) a discrimination is made as to whether or not the part of interest is combined with a character string, (iii) the selected candidate image is determined as part image for storage into the memory if the part is not combined with the character string, (iv) that there is inputted a character string if the part is combined with the character string, (v) combining the selected candidate image of the part with an image of the inputted character string, and (vi) storing the combined candidate image as the part image into the memory.

Furthermore, according to Claim 42, while executing the determination of the part images for each of parts and editing process, there is displayed an image of the sticker as thus far composed. That is, the sticker image as displayed includes the parts that have thus far been determined, but not the other parts. This feature permits the user to see how the sticker is being generated and to confirm that the result of the user's operation is what the user intends.

Attenberg relates to a multilayered sheet. According to *Attenberg*, however, the operation is one way (see Fig. 9), and a user can edit only by restarting the operation.

Applicants submit that nothing in *Attenberg* would teach or suggest returning to previous operation, as recited in Claim 1.

Frey relates to a system in which an image, banner, text and a plurality of data, but is silent about multi-layer sheets. The Office Action cites *Frey* as teaching the integration of character strings onto electronic images. Even if Frey is deemed to show all that it is cited for, however, Applicants submit that it would not teach editing and then returning to previous operation. Moreover, such combination also would not in any way suggest the means that produce a display for the user to see an intermediate image of the sticker, made up of those parts of the sticker that have thus far been determined.

Silverbrook relates to a vending machine for the production of customized photos and cards, in which a means is provided for easy navigation through the process.[1] Even if *Silverbrook* is deemed to teach all that it is cited for, however, such would not provide what is missing from *Attenberg* and *Frey* as references against Claim 42, which therefore is believed to be allowable over those three patents, taken singly or in any combination.

The other independent claims are believed to be allowable over those documents for the same reasons as is Claim 42.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as

---

[1] It is noted that while *Silverbrook* itself has been reviewed, the other Australian and U.S. applications identified by number at col. 1, *et seq.*, of that patent, and incorporated therein by reference, have not bee reviewed, as it is understood that the Examiner is not in any way relying upon the disclosure of those documents.

references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 42, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested. For example, Claim 48, which depends from Claim 42, further recites that the memory defined in Claim 42 is shared by the processes of printing the sticker and of displaying an animation. This feature also is believed not to be taught or suggested by the art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Leonard P Diana/
Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200